



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5291**
Mie TAKAHASHI et al. : Docket No. 2001-1464A
Serial No. 09/937,730 : Group Art Unit 1641
Filed January 8, 2002 : Examiner Gary W. Counts

CHROMATOGRAPHY MEDIUM AND
ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD

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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of January 5, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims. Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these remarks.

The rejection of claims 5, 12, 27, 31, 41, 45, 53 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of Yamamoto et al. is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies upon the references for reasons already of record. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Chu teaches that polyethylene glycols are a preferred surfactant and Yamamoto et al. teach the equivalence of polyethylene glycol surfactants to n-octyl- β -D thioglucoside or sucrose monolaurate surfactants for their addition to reaction layers. The Examiner further states that the selection of any known equivalents to replace the surfactants of Chu would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art and one of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation of success using the surfactants of Yamamoto et al. in the